

The Reston Reliance

Reston District Station

"Providing Our Community a Solid Foundation Through Excellence"

Fall 2009

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Open House a Success

By PFC Katy Fernbacher,
Crime Prevention Office

The Reston Open House was a success again this year with over 1,000 children of all ages in attendance on October 3, 2009. The community got to see the Fairfax County Police Helicopter, the Bomb Squad truck and robots, Spicey and Puget, the trained explosive detection dogs and a TAC officer with his truck. McGruff the Crime Dog was also there to greet the kids. Officers were on hand to show off a display of police cruisers from the 1940 Plymouth to the 2008 Ford, a seized BMW, the mobile command suburban and a patrol wagon. The police car moon bounce was a huge hit with the kids as always. McGruff rode around the event on his new police bicycle greeting all the spectators.

The Fairfax County Fire Department was also on hand to show off their equipment like the squad truck and the zodiac boat.

Representatives from Supervisor Hudgins' office, the Reston Citizen Advisory Committee, the Crime Prevention Office, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) and Fairfax County Police Recruiting were on hand to talk with attendees about programs available to them.

A special thank you to all who helped fill the police car with non-perishable food for the Reston Interfaith Food Bank and to the volunteers that helped with this year's event. Over 250 pounds of food were collected and stocked the Food Bank this year.



Arrest Made In Serial Burglaries

Fairfax County Police have seen an increase in jewelry thefts in the Sully, Reston, and Fair Oaks Districts over the last few months. Overall burglaries in those areas have dropped by 21%; however, the increase is found in the type of property being stolen particularly jewelry. Detectives are attributing these thefts to the recent increase in value of all precious metals, including gold, silver, and platinum. There was a 55% increase in burglaries involving stolen jewelry in those districts over the last year.

Three suspects have been charged in connection with a series of burglaries targeting gold jewelry held primarily by South Asian families in Fairfax County.

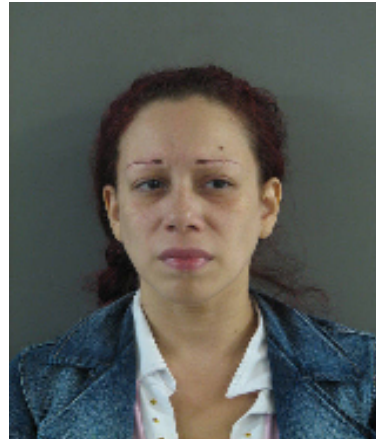
U.S. Marshals working with the police burglary task force spotted a sport utility vehicle with two men and a woman inside who fit the description of suspects in the burglaries. They stopped the vehicle at Moore Road and Clifton Road about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

Subsequent investigation by members of the burglary task force led to nine felony charges against Francisco Gray, 39, of Nassau County, New York; Dagoberto Soto-Ramirez, 27, and his wife, Melinda Soto, 33, both of Queens, New York.

Each is charged with four counts of burglary; four counts of grand larceny; and one count of conspiracy to commit burglary. They are being held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

Fairfax County police executed a search warrant and searched the sport utility vehicle the three suspects were in when they were stopped. Investigators found a laptop computer, a GPS unit, and a police scanner tuned to Fairfax County police radio channels.

The arrests mark the beginning of a new phase in the investigation that is expected to include multiple jurisdictions in at least two states.



Melinda Soto



Francisco Gray



Dagoberto Soto-Ramirez

Arrest Made In Herndon Area Sexual Assault Case

A 19-year-old female was sexually assaulted near 12530 Sunrise Valley Drive on Monday, October 5. Around 4 p.m., the victim was with a man she met through an acquaintance. Near the commuter lot, the man convinced her to enter some nearby woods. Once inside the woods, the man sexually assaulted the victim. The suspect fled and the victim summoned police. The victim was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital with minor injuries. Neither victim nor suspect were commuters. The suspect was described as black, in his 20s, wearing a tan shirt, blue jeans, and a camouflage hat. He was riding a silver bicycle.

During the early morning of October 7, police arrested 28-year-old Mohamed Kaffi, of 1603 Becon-tree Lane. Kaffi turned himself in at the Reston District Station after learning police were looking for him. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with Abduction with the intent to defile, and Rape.

Victim Services Section of the Fairfax County Police

The Victim Services Section (VSS) provides support and assistance to those who are emotionally, financially and physically affected as the result of a crime. The Victim Services Section strives to respond to the needs of crime victims and witnesses in a sensitive and supportive manner. This unit has a multi-lingual staff and can arrange for interpreters when needed. VSS operates within the Criminal Investigations Bureau of the FCPD to ensure immediate and direct help to victims and witnesses of violent crime. The VSS can be contacted by phone at 703-246-2141.

Sobriety Checkpoint Results In The Reston District

Fairfax County police officers from around the county conducted a sobriety checkpoint to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers on Thursday, October 22 from 11:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. Friday. All motorists were stopped and drivers were evaluated to assure that their abilities to drive had not been impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Approximately 371 motorists were stopped on the northbound lanes of the Fairfax County Parkway near the intersection of Walnut Branch Drive. Three arrests were made for DWI. Five summonses were issued for miscellaneous traffic offenses.

Nine officers and six auxiliary police officers participated in the checkpoint

Robbery in the Herndon Area

An 18-year-old man was robbed on Friday, November 27 in the 13300 block of Parcher Avenue. The victim was walking near Saunders Drive around 5:45 p.m. when another man approached him, displayed a pistol and demanded money. The victim relinquished a small amount of cash and the suspect fled.

The suspect was described as Hispanic, in his late teens to early 20s. He was about 5 feet 5 inches tall and 140 pounds with brown eyes and short, black hair. He wore a black hoodie over a white T-shirt, a brown woven belt, dark blue jeans and dirty, white shoes. The victim was not injured.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

How are Speed Limits Determined?

Speed limits are based on road design and traffic conditions. City streets where there is heavier traffic typically have lower speed limits than lightly traveled country roads. Roads around schools and other places where there are many pedestrians may have lower posted speed limits. Interstates and parkways have higher speed limits because traffic flow is better controlled by its limited accessibility.

When conditions are hazardous, Virginia State Police and other law enforcement officials have the power to decide whether the posted speed limit is safe. Speeding is dangerous even on the best and safest roads. A speeder disrupts the flow of traffic and can place other vehicles in danger as well.

The law does not allow any tolerance of speeds higher than the posted limit.

Factors considered in determining reasonable and safe speed limits are categorized into two phases: The engineering investigation and the traffic investigation. The engineering investigation involves a study of the geometric design of the road. Engineers review such items as lane width, pavement type, condition and terrain. In addition, the engineers look at parking conditions, commercial and residential development along the road, the number of entrances, width and types and intersecting streets.

The traffic investigation involves gathering and analyzing traffic related data. Engineers study the prevailing vehicle speeds, average test runs, traffic volumes, crash experience and traffic control devices that affect or are affected by vehicle speeds.

Guidance: When a speed limit is to be posted, it should be the 85th-percentile speed of free flowing traffic, rounded up to the nearest 5 mph increment.

Options: Other factors that may be considered when establishing speed limits are the following:

1. Road characteristics, shoulder condition, grade, alignment and sight distance.
2. The pace speed.
3. Roadside development and environment.
4. Parking practices and pedestrian activity.
5. Reported crash experience for at least a 12-month period.

Two types of speed limit signs may be used: one to designate passenger car speeds, including any nighttime information or minimum speed limit that might apply and the other to show any special speed limits for trucks and other vehicles.

By MPO Vincent DarConte

Sources: Virginia State Police, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Millennium Edition), Virginia Department of Transportation.

Whose Asking for Your Donations- Avoid being the victim of a charity scam

If you're approached by an unfamiliar charity, check it out.

Most states require charities to register with them and file annual reports showing how they use donations. Ask your state or local consumer protection agency how to get this information.

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) Wise Giving Alliance also offers information about national charities. Call **703-276-0100** or go to www.give.org.

Ask for written information.

Legitimate charities will be happy to provide details about what they do and will never insist that you act immediately.

Beware of sound-alikes.

Some crooks try to fool people by using names that are very similar to those of legitimate, well-known charities.

Ask about the caller's relation to the charity.

The caller may be a professional fundraiser, not an employee or a volunteer. Ask what percentage of donations goes to the charity and how much the fundraiser gets.

Be wary of requests to support police or firefighters.

Some fraudulent fundraisers claim that donations will benefit police or firefighters, when in fact little or no money goes to them. Contact your local police or fire department to find out if the claims are true and what percentage of donations, if any, they will receive.

Be especially cautious after natural or other disasters.

Fraudulent charities take advantage of those situations to trick people who want to aid the victims. If you're not sure whether a charity is legitimate, check it out with your state charities regulator and the Better Business Bureau before you donate.

This content is courtesy of the National Consumers League.



Phishing - All Year Long

No matter what season it is, or where you are, it can happen to anyone. Phishing involves Internet fraudsters who send spam or pop-up messages to lure personal information (credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security number, passwords or other sensitive information) from unsuspecting victims. An example may be an e-mail from your bank or Internet provider asking for personal or financial information to "verify" or "confirm" their records. Most likely these e-mails were sent by a computer savvy individual who created an e-mail or message similar to one you may actually receive from that company, including logos and phone numbers.

To keep from getting hooked by Phishers:

- Do not reply to e-mails or pop-up messages asking for personal or financial information, and don't click on any links in the message, either!
- Use anti-virus software and a firewall and keep them current!
- Don't e-mail personal or financial information.
- Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them.
- Be cautious about opening any attachment or downloading any files from emails received by strange addresses or companies.
- Forward spam that is phishing for info to spam@uce.gov.



Keep Our Seniors Warm Through the Winter!

MPO Sophia Grinnan



Warmth presents itself in many forms. We all have that nice warm blanket tucked away which thaws the winter chill that has settled in our bones. When-

ever we see a drive for

blankets for the poor or the homeless during the winter months, we open our hearts and give to those less fortunate. Sound familiar? That kindness and generosity would be well-suited to our seniors in our very own neighborhoods.

Take the opportunity to know who the elderly are in your neighborhoods. Take a minute to ask if you can help them in any way. How can you help?

- * Shovel their walkway or driveway
- * Turn off their outdoor plumbing
- * Inspect their car to make sure it runs safely (check windshield washer fluid level)
- * Offer to do some shopping for them if you are going to the grocery store
- * Let them know how they can contact you in case of an emergency
- * Ensure the numbers on their house are easily visible in case of emergencies
- * Replace an interior or exterior light bulb
- * Ensure any extension cords are out of the way so they don't trip

Senior citizens are some of our most valuable Neighborhood Watch participants.

Many have lived in their neighborhoods for many years and are in a good position to notice any suspicious activity. They have so much to offer us. They have lived history, worked many years and have seen the times change in

many areas of our society which make them a great resource. Encourage seniors to get involved with the youth in our communities! They may be great role models and suggest some sound guidance through their life experiences. Let's protect our resources and develop our youth!

Encourage our senior community to speak out for help when they need it! Build relationships! Elderly or disabled members of our community should entertain an introduction between family and neighborhood friends; if an emergency arises, you will have a communication tree in place.

Promoting neighborliness offers a warmth to the community that far exceeds that of a blanket. It warms the heart and the spirit, offers immeasurable benefits to our society, and we learn so much from each other. Seniors don't want to burden us so they don't ask for help or sometimes reject it. Do we make them feel like burdens?

Remember, we are our future elderly!

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT)

is reaching out to seniors in Reston and Herndon to get more involved.

Seniors, law enforcement, community services and anyone who has an interest in reducing the victimization of seniors come together on a regular basis to discuss issues like ID theft, fraud, fire prevention, emergency management and other crime prevention topics. Meetings are held in the Reston/ Herndon area and are open to anyone interested in attending. For more information about SALT, please e-mail Phyllis Smith or Margie Shapiro at trisalt40@aol.com or call the Crime Prevention Office at 703-478-0799

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Would you like to become more involved in the Reston District? You can, by attending the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) meetings. The CAC was established in 1979 to enhance the Department's ability to communicate with and better serve the community.



The CAC meeting can involve presentations by any aspect of the police department, and may cover the helicopter division, identity theft, the canine division and child safety. In addition, you will find out what is going on in your community and will have the opportunity to talk to the Commander and other officers of the Reston District Station and express your concerns directly.

The formal meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and runs about 1½ hours. (The Neighborhood Watch precedes it at 7 p.m.) The meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Reston District Station at 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. **The next meeting is Thursday, January 21, 2010**

There are no dues or membership requirements and dress is casual. Late arrival/early departure is OK. This is time well-spent and we hope to see you there. For more information contact the Crime Prevention Office at 703-478-0799. Everyone is welcome—join us!

Chief of Police, Colonel David Rohrer will be the guest speaker at the January 21, 2010 CAC meeting. He will be on hand to talk about the police department and answer any questions you may have regarding the police department in general.

In the next issue of the
Reston Reliance:
Are you prepared?
Information for www.ready.gov
Winter Driving Tips
More Traffic Trivia

RESTON DISTRICT STATION SERVICES

For more information regarding the following services, please contact the Crime Prevention Office at (703) 478 - 0799 or e-mail the Crime Prevention Officer Katy Fernbacher at katy.fernbacher@fairfaxcounty.gov

Reston District Police Station Web Page: You will find links to on-line reporting, neighborhood news, station information, the Reston Reliance and other information at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/reston>

Reston Reliance Newsletter: If you would like to sign up to receive the Reston Reliance, please visit the Fairfax County Police web-page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter>

Home/Business Security Assessments: Are you concerned about the safety and security of your home or business? If so, call us to schedule a free security assessment. We will make recommendations and offer suggestions to better safeguard your home or business.

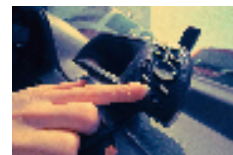
Neighborhood Watch Training: If your community is interested in receiving Neighborhood Watch training, please call us and we will schedule a time to come to your community to give the training.

Reston Business Crime Watch: This e-mail alert system is designed to give businesses up-to-date and specific crime information pertaining to the type or location of the business.

Tips to Keep Your Portable GPS

Document the serial number and model number from your GPS unit.

Remove your GPS unit from the car, including the power cord.



Remove all mount traces from the windshield or dashboard.

Lock car doors and windows.

Park in a well-lit, busy area.

Report any theft to aid in recovery

703-691-2131 or 911

Community Resources

Cut out and hang near your phone for easy reference

POLICE—Non-Emergency.....	703-691-2131
EMERGENCY	911
Reston District Police Station.....	703-478-0904
Alcohol and Drug Services (Youth Services).....	703-961-1080
Center for Multicultural Human Services.....	703-533-3302
CrisisLink Crisis Hotline (Suicide, trauma, life crises).....	703-527-4077
Community Services Board (Prevention services).....	703-324-7000
Emergency Mental Health Services (24 hour).....	703-573-5679
Department of Family Services.....	703-324-7938
Fairfax Area Agency on Aging.....	703-324-7948
Fairfax County Dept. of Community and Recreation Services—Teen Services...	703-324-8336
Fairfax County Gang Coordinator.....	703-246-2396
Fairfax County Health Dept.....	703-246-2411
Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.....	703-246-2495
Fairfax County Public Schools—After school programs.....	703-246-6740
Northern Virginia Gang Task Force—Tip Line.....	1-866-664-2647



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To request this information in an alternate format, call the Fairfax County
Police Department at
(703) 246-7562 and TTY (703) 204-2264.

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Reston, VA 20190

The Reston Reliance

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